

Message Text

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51

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-01 CEA-01 INT-05 L-02 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

NIC-01 SAJ-01 DOTE-00 AF-04 /093 W
----- 074492

R 221245Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0387

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9447

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ECEM, ECIN, ETRD, EG, SOV, MO, TS, AG, JO

SUBJECT: ABU TARTOUR PHOSPHATE DEVELOPMENT

1. A GOE OFFICIAL WHO ACCOMPANIED FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY DURING HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW FROM OCT 14 TO OCT 18, TOLD COMMERCIAL OFFICER THAT SOVIETS HAD OFFERED A 12 YEAR 2 1/2 PERCENT LOAN FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE ABU TARTOUR PHOSPHATE DEPOSIT. HE SAID THAT SOVIET LOAN WOULD COVER MINING EQUIPMENT SUFFICIENT FOR EXTRACTION OF TEN MILLION TONS OF PHOSPHATE ANNUALLY. LOAN WOULD ALSO INCLUDE PLANT FOR CONCENTRATING PHOSPHATE FROM TEN MILLION TONS TO SEVEN MILLION TONS. SOURCE DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER SOVIET LOAN WOULD COVER INFRASTRUCTURE COST OF DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING, FOR EXAMPLE, NEW RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION FROM PHOSPHATE SITE TO RED SEA PORT.

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2. OF SEVEN MILLION TONS OF PHOSPHATE THAT EGYPT EVENTUALLY HOPES TO EXTRACT, SOMEWHAT MORE THAN TWO MILLION TONS WOULD BE DEVOTED TO PRODUCTION OF PHOSPHORIC ACID. DISCUSSIONS ARE PRESENTLY UNDER WAY WITH AN AMERICAN COMPANY FOR ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND TONS OF PHOSPHORIC ACID. EGYPT ITSELF INTENDS TO USE ABOUT ONE MILLION TONS OF PHOSPHATE. SOURCE SAID THAT EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING WITH AMERICAN COMPANIES THE FURTHER PROCESSING OF PHOSPHORIC ACID INTO FERTILIZERS.

3. ASKED ABOUT MARKETING REMAINING FOUR MILLION TONS OF PHOSPHATE, HE REPLIED THAT EGYPT WILL BE JOINING MARKETING ORGANIZATION OF PHOSPHATE PRODUCERS WHICH INCLUDES MOROCCO, TUNISIA, ALGERIA AND JORDAN. LOOKING FORWARD TO TIME WHEN MOROCCO WILL ASSUME CONTROL OF THE SPANISH SAHARA PHOSPHATE DEPOSITS, HE FORESAW AN ARAB ROLE IN PHOSPHATE PRODUCTION SIMILAR TO THAT ENJOYED BY THE ARABS IN OIL THROUGH OPEC.

4. SOURCE ALSO INDICATED THAT GOE WOULD PROBABLY BE WITHIN THREE MONTHS BE SIGNING A CONSULTING CONTRACT ON PHOSPHATE DEVELOPMENT WITH FRENCH COMPANY CALLED SOPHRAMIN WHICH APPARENTLY HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN ALGERIA.
EILTS

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